

1 4. The method of claim 3 including providing
2 confidential information to said service provider instead
3 of said retail vendor.

1 5. The method of claim 3 including providing the
2 customer with a predefined set of selections.

1 6. The method of claim 1 including enabling said
2 service provider to provide remote maintenance for said
3 processor-based system and to control the software and
4 hardware added to said system.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further including providing
2 advertising based on the customer's preferences.

1 8. The method of claim 1 including receiving
2 information about the customer's preferences on said
3 processor-based system coupled to said service provider
4 over the Internet, forwarding said customer preferences to
5 said service provider, causing said service provider to
6 customize the content to be provided to the customer based
7 on said information and forwarding said customized content
8 to said processor-based system.

1 9. The method of claim 1 including automatically
2 directing said customer to a server associated with said

1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 obtain the identity of the customer and customize the
4 information provided to the customer based on the
5 customer's identity.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 control the first and the second graphical user interfaces
4 displayed after booting of said system.

1 14. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 provide confidential information to said service provider
4 instead of said retail vendor.

1 15. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 provide the customer with a predefined set of selections.

1 16. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 enable said service provider to provide remote maintenance
4 for said processor-based system and to control the software
5 and hardware added to said system.

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1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage
2 further stores instructions that enable said system to
3 control the initial two graphical user interfaces displayed
4 on said system after booting.

1 25. The system of claim 24 wherein said storage
2 further stores instructions that enable said system to
3 prevent the initial two graphical user interfaces from
4 being changed.

1 26. The system of claim 21 including an interface for
2 coupling said system to a server over the Internet, and
3 said storage further storing instructions that enable said
4 system to receive said preferences, forward said
5 preferences over the Internet to said server and receive
6 customized content from said server over the Internet.

1 27. The system of claim 21 including a unitary
2 housing and a display, said display being mounted in said
3 unitary housing, said unitary housing further storing said
4 processor and said storage.

1 28. A method comprising:
2 providing Internet services to a customer on
3 behalf of a retail vendor through a client processor-based
4 system;

8 prevent the client from accessing said Internet
9 services without receiving said content related to products
10 or services of said retail vendor; and
11 enable said server to receive customer preferences
12 from said client and customize content displayed on said
13 client based on said customer preferences.

1 32. The article of claim 31 further storing
2 instructions that enable the server to provide customized
3 advertising to said client based on preferences received
4 from said client.

1 33. A server connectable to a client, said server
2 comprising:

3 a processor;
4 a storage coupled to said processor;
5 an interface to the Internet; and
6 instructions stored on said storage that enable
7 the server to provide Internet services to the client on
8 behalf of a retail vendor; provide said services through
9 graphical user interfaces from said server that include
10 content related to products or services of said retail
11 vendor; prevent the client from accessing said Internet
12 services without receiving said content related to products
13 or services of said retail vendor; and enable said server
14 to receive customer preferences from said client and

15 customize the content displayed on said client based on
16 said customer preferences.

1 34. The system of claim 33 wherein customized
2 advertising is provided to said client based on the
3 preferences received from said client.

1 35. The system of claim 34 including storing in said
2 storage information about the activities undertaken by the
3 customer on said client.

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